

NORTH WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Director of Public Safety

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March 6, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs,

As the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator and Chief of Police I have the responsibility to be the operator of the City's Traveler Information Radio Station. I support the AAIRO's position regarding clarification and update of FCC Part 90.242 rules governing the Travelers Information Service. I support the loosening of content restrictions to specifically permit NOAA Broadcasts (Routine and Non-Routine), Amber and Silver Alerts, and other security and hazard announcements over TIS systems.

Last February during the snow / ice storm that hit the Northeast part of the United States left our town without electricity for four days. The local commercial radio stations were off the air and for those few that had electricity the cable television were out. The only thing working was North Wildwood's Traveler's Information Station powered by emergency generators at the Emergency Management Building. No matter how large disasters are they are essentially local, and it is imperative that local operators have the expressed authority to broadcast, at their discretion, public safety information for the protection of life and property.

North Wildwood is a seasonal resort town where the population will jump from 5000 to 66,000 people during the summer. In these uncertain times I can think of many emergencies that a local TIS station could be used for warnings and life saving public instructions. Considering that the travelling public is a broad descriptor that at any given moment can represent a significant percentage of the total local population are they not all potentially victims of the same locally hazardous situation and deserve access to information that can facilitate their safe passage.

I am also supportive of eliminating the filtering requirement in Section §90.242(b)(8) as it will enable clear reception to our residents and visitors 24 hours a day.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Matteucci
Chief of Police
Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator